

Chimo No. 35

Chimo

The Newsjournal of the Canadian Association for
Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

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Chimo

The Newsjournal of the Canadian Association for
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CHIMO (Chee'mo) greetings [Inuit]

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From the President

The annual meeting at St. John's was stimulating and pleasant, even though the weather was ghastly. Some twenty six papers were read in ten CACLALS sessions. Joint sessions were held with ACCUTE and ACQL as well as with ACCUTE and ACTR; a session organised by CSSR was promoted by CACLALS. The cooperation between ACCUTE and CACLALS continues to be warm and productive; many members of CACLALS are also members of ACCUTE; the joint planning of plenary sessions, and the sharing of invited speakers, have produced a naturally productive common forum.

Once again, we urge members to offer member-organised panels for the meetings in Ottawa next spring. These meetings at the University of Ottawa will be the first to be presented as part of the new Congress of Learned Societies, co-ordinated by the central secretariat of the HSSFC, and we shall see what benefits are to be gained from a shorter period of learned societies' meetings and a potentially better integrated program.

The response of graduate students to the call for paper offerings from the CACLALS graduate-student representatives has been negligible, although many graduate students have offered papers in the CACLALS sessions open to all members, and many of those papers have been accepted. The call in this issue of Chimo for an informal graduate student session planned as an interactive workshop may prove to be the stimulant necessary to revive the graduate panel. On the other hand, it is possible that the graduate-only panel in the old format has ceased to be useful, and many graduate student members of CACLALS see their intellectual interests to be inseparable from those of other CACLALS members. The integration of graduate students into the CACLALS program

appears to be seamless in the regular sessions, and the social mingling at the Learned's seems (at least to the aged President) to be effortless. This last element of CACLALS meetings is, surely, one of their most rewarding features. News was out in St. John's that CACLALS was the place to be and the society to which to belong. That rumour must be attributable to the sense among members that a shared interest in and passion for the field of study is an essential common bond and that differences in age or status are irrelevant.

This issue of *Chimo* contains the usual call for papers for next year's meetings. Please respond by the deadline and make the Ottawa meetings as lively as those at Brock and Memorial.

The big event for CACLALS this fall will be the Triennial Conference, *The Commonwealth in Canada*, scheduled to be held at Laurier from November 7 to 9. By the time *Chimo* arrives, this conference will probably be over; a report will be available at the Ottawa meetings. The conference promises to be exciting, with participants from Australia, Canada, France, Jamaica, South Africa and the USA. The *Commonwealth in Canada* opens on the evening of Friday November 7 with Janette Turner Hospital addressing the topic "At Home in the Commonwealth?" and reading from her works. The conference closes after lunch on Sunday November 9.

Victor Ramraj originally planned this "Triennial" during his regime, when the CACLALS Executive was based in Calgary. The exigencies of university life in Alberta during that period, as Alberta institutions became kleiner and kleiner, made it impossible to hold the conference in Calgary. The current Executive took over the task of organising a "triennial" (now more than three years old), and has nurtured the CACLALS budget to the point at which the conference could be held this fall using CACLALS funds, with generous assistance from Laurier itself, at least equal to the amount available from the CACLALS budget. We were unsuccessful in our application to SSHRCC for conference funding.

The venue for the next triennial ACLALS conference is now fixed. The saga of which Association would provide the next Chair for ACLALS is over. Having rescinded the 1995 invitation to the West African ACLALS, after the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth, the ACLALS Executive members (the Chairs/Presidents of all regional Associations-I represent CACLALS on the Executive) decided that, in the absence of an established ACLALS group in South Africa, the original offer (made in Colombo in 1995) from MACLALS (Malaysia) should be accepted. The Malaysians agreed to organize the next triennial and the dates of December 1 to December 6, 1998 have been decided on. The venue will be Kuala Lumpur. A call for papers is enclosed with this copy of *Chimo*.

The new ACLALS group in Kuala Lumpur is: C. S. Lim, Chair; Siti Rohaini Kassim, Secretary; Mary Susan Philip, Treasurer. The address is: Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

I shall not revisit the long history of wrong decision and indecision that produced the first invitation to WAACLALS, the investigation of the South African bid (from Durban), and the final confirmation of MACLALS as the host/Chair of the next triennial. Since taking office as CACLALS President, I have consistently commented on the process in *Chimo*. New CACLALS members should read those back numbers (since fall 1995) to catch the full flavour of the saga.

The dates of the next triennial are obviously bad for CACLALS members. I have repeatedly argued for August as the traditional date for these meetings and the date most convenient for most members. All this was to no avail. C. S. Lim found August too close for comfort, and EACLALS was not happy with that time. Furthermore, the fact that the

Commonwealth Games are scheduled for Kuala Lumpur in September 1998 was judged to have put an excessive strain on accommodation and other facilities in Kuala Lumpur during that month. C. S. Lim originally suggested October 1998, which would have proved even more difficult for CACLALS members. I pointed this out as forcefully as I could. The resulting compromise of early December 1998 is probably better for CACLALS. The dates set aside coincide with the end of the fall term in most Canadian universities, but at least they fall at the end of the teaching period rather than at the beginning. I fear that there is no more that I can do.

Please respond enthusiastically (and intelligently, of course) to the call for paper-proposals for the Ottawa meetings.

Rowland Smith October 1997

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Conference Reports

For those who managed to navigate their way through all those chaotic departure lounges, St. John's proved a magical location for this year's LEARNEDS... despite the weather. While elsewhere in Canada the summer was finally arriving, Newfoundland was still defiantly shrouded in mist and rain. However, the inclement conditions were just the excuse that David Leahy, newly appointed to the CACLALS executive, was looking for. Posing as Virgilian guide to the St. John's underworld, he had us groaning at the sight of garage bands trapped within the ever-burning flame of eighties rock, swooning at the melancholy chords of Newfie Blues, and gasping at the unlikely dialogue between an All-Ireland Champion fiddle and a Nashville accordion.

While all the papers at this year's CACLALS are worthy of mention, I have chosen, since the abstracts have already been published in the previous issue of *Chimo*, to mention only those that loom the largest in my no doubt idiosyncratic memory. So apologies in advance for those that I neglect to mention-and for those that, in mentioning all too briefly, I misrepresent.

John Ball's reading of Naipaul's short story, "A Flag on the Island," kicked off proceedings by suggesting that we add Frankenstein and his monster to the list of literary archetypes mapping the relation of coloniser and colonised. Naipaul's representation of colonial society as the monstrous product of colonialism seems highly provocative, although such an *ex nihilo* creation seems to me to come close to negating the possibility of a pre-or postcolonial society. Naipaul's politics are such that his work should perhaps come with a label exhorting the reader to Handle With Care!

In the introduction to the latest edition of *Critical Enquiry*, Homi Bhabha cites a poem by Adrienne Rich in which a student demands to know whether "Race, class... all that... but isn't that just history I aren't people bored with all that?" Bhabha goes on to decry the "repetitious piety-the multiculturalist mantras-that merely instantiate differences without revealing those interstitial articulations through which categories of difference constitute new social movements." Of the many papers that attempted to plot the shifting coordinates of identity, the most telling were indeed those which examined the way in which these differences implicate each other in such a way as to destabilise rather than secure the boundaries of identity.

Maureen Moynagh argued that Nancy Cunard's refusal to accept the relevance of her position as a white woman to her work as a champion of black culture symptomatically "produced" the scandal of her alleged affair with Paul Robeson. Gender, she convincingly argued, aporetically underwrites her work on race.

Both Neil ten Kortenaar and Margery Fee offered visual representations of the complex interactions of race, class and gender in their readings of, respectively, Tsitsi Damberenga's *Nervous Conditions* and Sky Lee's *Disappearing Moon Cafe*. Neil drew up a diagram of the various subject positions that could be taken up within the social hierarchies of the novel in order to show exactly what lines of sight and flight (both psychological and economic) were available to the characters, while Margery constructed a detailed family tree in order to highlight the function of the name of the father in inter-racial genealogies.

Tseen Khoo looked at the way in which writers and photo biographers of the Asian diaspora are attempting to carve out a differential space within the putatively multicultural societies of Canada and Australia, while Carrie Dawson argued that Archibald Belaney's imposture as Grey Owl reveals the way in which this differential space is always already occupied by the dominant culture: Grey Owl's imposture offers white Canadians the chance to contemplate an idealised image of themselves in which the narcissism of identity functions to occlude the possibility of difference. Gillian Sidall's paper on William "Tiger" Dunlop unearthed a similar appropriation of an alternative space, although she argued that Dunlop's self-promotion as the ideal man to tame the Canadian wilderness drew as much on the gentlemanly tropes of a romanticised masculinity as on the idealised images of native identity.

Our current graduate representatives, Laura Moss and Heather Smyth, looked at how postcolonial novelists have politicised the novel form. Heather argued that Myal and Abeng both transform the *bildungsroman* from an individual into a communal narrative, while Laura examined the variety of "alternate realisms" available to the postcolonial writer.

Shane Rhodes' reading of *The Wars*, in which he argued that the ambiguous narration creates a gap through which the question of Findley's own sexual identity escapes, provoked a lively discussion of the reasons behind the author's refusal to define himself as a homosexual writer. In the same session, Craig Tapping's musings on the way in which Soyinka's literary production both bridges and reveals the disjunction between the political and the aesthetic, grounded, as always, in the singularities of the classroom and its troubled, mediated relationship to the world-out-there (specifically the recent events in Nigeria), raised questions which will continue to haunt us.

Then there was the double act of George Elliott Clarke and Houston Baker, likened by Baker himself to the interplay of two jazz saxophones, each feeding off the other's improvisations. Without wishing to downplay the subtlety of their thinking, this was as much about style as content, as much about how as what was said. Clarke's meditation on the productive interstitiality of the Afro-Canadian answered Bhabha's call for a performance of difference that moves the boundaries themselves, although I was perhaps more moved by the intimacy of his later poetry reading, in which the power of his images made possible a more fluent transition from personal to communal identity. Baker's mesmeric presentation, which at times modulated to a rhythm so slow that each word came out as a separate unit of sound, combined personal anecdote, the anecdotes of others (Richard Wright's) and the theoretical elaboration of what he termed "critical memory": a national consciousness of race that, in the face of certain liberal demands for a colour-blind state apparatus (and thus for the abolition of positive discrimination etc.), refuses to forget the historical difference of race and the reality of racism.

Baker's conception of critical memory was tantalising close to Djelal Kadir's call for a critical literacy. Kadir's dazzling display of the sort of urbane polycultural and multilingual literacy that he wasn't necessarily talking *about* was every inch as much a performance as the previous plenary. He drew a distinction between literacy as a knowledge of a privileged body of

literature and as a critical awareness of the ideological forces that function to produce certain texts as culturally privileged, and went on to compare two cultural critics whom he admitted made "unlikely bedfellows": Harold Bloom and Homi Bhabha, the apostles, respectively, of cultural homogeneity and heterogeneity. His argument was too dense to grasp in its entirety at a first hearing, but surely his is a mind that ought to command greater critical currency.

I don't know what *The Globe and Mail* had to say about this year's LEARNEDS. But I wonder what the icebergs made of it all, run aground in the bays and harbours surrounding St. John's, brooding, implacable and inscrutable witnesses to the invasion of the Wise Guys (as the taxi drivers, profoundly unimpressed by the pretensions of our soon-to-be-jettisoned acronym, dubbed us).

Sam Durrant
Queen's University

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Call for Nominees

A vacancy for one position for a graduate student on the Executive will occur **July 1, 1998**. Would you please forward nominees to Gary Boire, Secretary-Treasurer, CACLALS, Department of English, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, N2L 3C5, Canada or Fax: (519)746-2472 so that an election slate can be prepared. The election will be held at the next AGM at University of Ottawa, May 28-30, 1998. The nominees must be received no later than January **31, 1998**.

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Notices of Motions

That the CACLALS Constitution be amended in the following ways:

Section 13. Nominations

A new section c. should be added:

If no nominations for graduate student representatives are received prior to the publication of the Spring issue of Chimo, nominations for this position will be accepted during the AGM. If nominations made at the AGM exceed vacancies, there shall be a mail ballot to be sent out to all graduate student members after the AGM. The newly elected graduate representative shall assume office on September 1 after the mail ballot.

Sections c-i in Section 13 will then be numbered d-m.

*Submitted by Heather Smyth
University of Alberta*

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1996-97 Executive Committee: Reports

AGM Minutes & Financial Statement

MINUTES OF THE CACLALS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at Memorial University on June 2, 1997, 5:00p.m.

Present: Stella Algoo-Baksh; John Ball; Harold Barratt;
Judy Barton; Guy Beauregard; Gary Boire; Cherry Clayton;
Terence Craig; Sam Durrant; Margery Fee; Douglas Ivison;
David Leahy; Carol Morrell; Laura Moss; Maureen
Moynagh; Norman Raavin; Victor Ramraj; Mary Rimmer;
John Schekter; Elizabeth Shih; Gillian Siddall; Rowland
Smith; Heather Smyth; Craig Tapping, Asha Varadharajan

It was agreed by consensus to hear John Scott and Paul Ledwell of the HSSFC before the actual AGM. John Scott addressed members of CACLALS on the HSSFC's interest in exploring career paths for undergraduate humanities and social science students; he also expressed concern at the difficulties involved in procuring job placements for humanities students. Paul Ledwell announced that next year's meeting of CACLALS will be part of the first "Congress" of the HSSFC to be held at the University of Ottawa. Other points of interest: the annual Congress will take place over an eleven day period; registration fees will be decreased from their present levels; joint sessions will be encouraged; CACLALS will meet May 28-30, 1998; the 1999 meetings will be at the University of Sherbrooke; and the 2000 meetings will be held at the University of Alberta.

1. *Motion* (Craig Tapping/Margery Fee): That the minutes of the CACLALS AGM held at Brock on May 25, 1996, be approved.

Carried.

2. *Matters Arising:*

(a) The meeting pointed out that the last minutes neglected to include a general consensus that Craig Tapping be encouraged to organize a CACLALS session on pedagogy. Both the Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Tapping thanked the members for reminding us of this fact. Dr. Tapping has agreed to look into the matter for the 1998 meeting in Ottawa.

(b) David Leahy suggested that a joint session between CACLALS and film studies associations would be both exciting and interesting. Members agreed unanimously that this option would be worth exploring.

3. *The President's Report:* Rowland Smith referred the meeting to his President's Report (previously circulated). During discussions he was pleased to announce that the Commonwealth in Canada Triennial Conference was going ahead and would be held at Wilfrid Laurier University on November 7-9, 1997. Response to the call for papers (and the quality of submissions) have necessitated a number of parallel sessions.

Immediately following the President's Report Margery Fee expressed gratitude to Rowland Smith for his activities on behalf of CACLALS regarding the ACLALS' proposed meeting in

Malaysia in 1998. There was general approval and hearty murmurings.

Motion to accept (Margery Fee/Craig Tapping).

Carried.

4. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Gary Boire referred the meeting to his Treasurer's Report, July 1-December 31, 1996 (included in *Chimo*, Number 34). He sternly reminded members that

membership fees are for the calendar year and not the academic year. Much confusion has arisen from those members who pay in late November or December and assume that their fees are for the following year. The Treasurer's personal opinion is that members should be encouraged to pay their fees by the end of January and that these fees will cover the current calendar year. The Treasurer also made a number of pointed remarks: (a) that since moving to Wilfrid Laurier University no CACLALS funding had been used for the travel or accommodation of the President or Secretary-Treasurer; (b) members must make a concerted effort to pay their dues (as it were); and (c) the current health of CACLALS could be attributed to the absorption of many costs by the Office of the Vice-President: Academic at Laurier, and to a lesser extent, the English Department at Laurier. This kind of institutional support plays an enormous role in the healthy running of the association and should be kept in mind when members elect the next Executive at the Ottawa meeting. Finally, the Secretary-Treasurer expressed his heartfelt thanks to Roza Cunningham of Laurier without whose expertise and good humour CACLALS would be in dire disorganization.

Victor Ramraj then alertly noticed a typographical error in the Treasurer's Report (the ACLALS budget should read £1000 and not \$1000). With that correction noted there was a motion to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's Report (John Ball/Margery Fee).

Carried.

5. Members were invited to vote on the series of constitutional amendments that were contained in the Notice of Motion on page 11 of *Chimo*, Number 34. The results were as follows:

Section 7. Executive Committee

The word "a" in the third line be replaced by the word "two." "The last word "Representative "be "Representatives."

Fee/Clayton. Carried

Section 10. Terms of Office

Section c. shall be amended in the following way:

The words "one year" shall be replaced by the words "two years."

Moss/Smyth. Carried

Section 13. Nominations

Section a. shall be amended in the following ways:

The words "(except those of graduate students) " shall be inserted between the words "positions" and "in" in the first line.

Tapping/Varadharajan. Carried

Section 13 (b)

A new section b. should be added: "The Fall Issue of Chimo will include a Call for

Nominations for a graduate representative. The Spring Issue of Chimo will include a slate of nominees: the election for one graduate representative for a 2-year term will be held amongst graduate student members at the annual AGM. Their terms will be staggered, to ensure continuity."

Tapping/Leahy. *Carried*

Section 13 (b-k)

Sections b-k in Section 13 will then be numbered c-i.

Carried by Consensus

2. That the Constitution of CACLALS be amended in the following way:

"That the words 'the 1" July' in section 13 (k) of the Constitution be altered to read 'September 1.' The amended section 13 (k) would then read: "the New Executive Committee shall assume office on September 1 after the Annual General Meeting of the Association at which the elections have taken place or after the Triennial Meeting of ACLALS whichever comes last."

Ramraj/Varadharajan. *Carried*

6. *Other Business:*

(a) Craig Tapping suggested that the CACLALS constitution be amended to include a representative from the newly formed BC University Colleges. This met with general approval and a Notice of Motion is contained in this issue.

(b) Laura Moss and Heather Smyth have suggested that the constitution be amended to change the dates of office of the graduate student representatives. A Notice of Motion and a discussion of the issue can be found in this issue.

(c) Laura Moss and Heather Smyth expressed disappointment that they received so few responses to their call for graduate student papers. Discussion followed and it was agreed to monitor the situation in the next Call for Papers.

(d) Three graduate students were nominated to fill the one upcoming position on the CACLALS executive (2 year term of office, July 1, 1998-June 30, 2000). (Though these dates could change as a result of the next AGM meeting in Ottawa.) The nominees are:

- (i) Tony Oguntuase (UNB) (Moss/Durrant)
- (ii) Judy Barton (York) (Beauregard/Iverson)
- (iii) Elizabeth Shih (Smyth/Durrant)

Graduate student members should have received a voting slip in this issue of *Chimo*, Number 35; deadline for voting is January 31, 1998. Results will be published in the Spring *Chimo*, (Number 36).

(e) Modupe Olaogun, the CACLALS Representative from Quebec, has resigned her position. The meeting discussed a replacement and David Leahy was nominated (Fee/Varadharajan) and elected by acclamation.

Many thanks to Modupe and congratulations to David!

(t) Rowland Smith offered a heartfelt expression of gratitude to our local representative in St. John's: Dr. Stella AlgooBaksh who worked tirelessly on behalf of CACLALS.

7. *Adjournment.* Moved by V. Ramraj; seconded by A. Varadharajan. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Interim Report

October 1, 1997

<i>BALANCE FORWARD, December 31, 1996:</i>			\$15,218.46
	<i>INCOME</i>		
Membership Fees		\$3815.74	
ACLALS Operating Grant (1000)		\$2251.85	
<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>		\$6067.59	
<i>BALANCE</i>		\$21,286.05	
	<i>EXPENDITURES</i>		
<i>Travel Grants to Members (Memorial Learned's)</i>			\$2500.00
Memorial Plenaries		\$960.00	
<i>Chimo 34 (Spring 1997):</i>			
	Printing	\$464.06	
	Postage	\$138.85	\$602.91
<i>Other:</i>			
	Photocopying	\$60.00	
	Website	\$150.00	
	Postage (Commonwealth in Canada)	\$187.42	
<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</i>		\$4,460.33	
<i>BALANCE, OCTOBER 1, 1997</i>		\$16,825.72	

The figures provided in the statement above agree with the recorded transactions with the Bank of Montreal in every respect.

GARY BOIRE, SECRETARY-TREASURER
Wilfrid Laurier University

Graduate Student Representative's Report

We are happy to report another successful year for graduate students in CACLALS. Graduate students continued to make a strong contribution to the presentations at the 1997 Learned's, and (speaking for ourselves, at least) enjoyed all the sights and cod tongues that St. John's had to offer (although Heather is still disappointed that inclement weather spoiled her puffin-watching plans). CACLALS-L, the e-mail listserv established by Jill Didur at York, is quiet but still functioning, and we'd encourage everyone to join it and use this forum for our discussions and information-sharing. To join, e-mail "listserv@yorku.ca" and write "sub CACLALS-L (your e-mail address)." A team at UNB also set up an interactive home page for CACLALS. Contact Wendy Robbins (wjr@unb.ca) or Tony Oguntuase (15hp@unb.ca) for more information.

There were several items of business at the CACLALS AGM that specifically concern graduate students. Although there have been two graduate representatives on the Executive of CACLALS since the 1995 Learned's in Montreal, when Jennifer Kelly proposed the change,

1997 was our first opportunity to amend the constitution to recognize this change. At the AGM at Memorial University, the Executive voted to amend the CACLALS constitution to include two graduate student representatives, with staggered terms of two years.

No nominations for graduate student representatives were made prior to the AGM in St. John's, but nominations were made during the AGM. The nominees are Judy Barton (York), Tony Oguntuase (UNB), and Elizabeth Shin (U of T). Please note that there is a ballot in this issue of *Chimo* and brief statements by each of the nominees. We urge you to fill out your ballot and send it in. Last year very few graduate students responded to the mail-in ballot, and we're hoping for greater numbers this year. We'd also like to remind you that this issue of *Chimo* includes a call for next year's nominations, and the spring issue will list the nominees. In an ordinary situation, the graduate student representative would be voted in during the AGM at the Learned's, and would begin tenure on July 1. Because of the unusual nature of this year's voting and take-over procedure (the outgoing representative will have served two and a half years, while the incoming representative, starting January 1, 1998, will serve a year and a half), the graduate representatives are preparing an amendment to the CACLALS constitution, which will allow a summer mail-in ballot, with a September 1 beginning of tenure, if no nominations for graduate representatives are received until the AGM.

We were disappointed that we didn't receive any proposals for the CACLALS graduate student session at Memorial this year. We speculate that the travel distance may have been a factor, but we also wonder if a paper presentation format is the best way to get graduate students together to discuss graduate student issues. For the 1998 CACLALS conference at COSSH (formerly known as the Learned's) in Ottawa, we're hoping to have a more informal workshop format. To this end, we are not issuing a formal call for papers, but would encourage all graduate students to submit suggestions for workshop topics or strategies. However, any proposals for performances or informal presentations that could catalyze discussion would be welcome. Please see our notice for details.

Thanks are due to Rowland Smith and Gary Boire and the rest of CACLALS for the funding provided to many graduate students to help us attend the St. John's conference. Thanks also to the professors who gave up their funding so that it might go towards deferring a graduate student's expenses.

Don't forget to mail in your ballot and nominate fellow graduate students for next year's representative. And please contact us with ideas for the graduate student workshop at the Ottawa meeting, and with any other comments or questions that could help us better represent you as graduate students in CACLALS.

Have a great year, and see you in Ottawa.

Heather Smyth (Department of English, 3-5 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E5; E-mail hsmyth@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca)

Laura Moss (Department of English, Watson Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6; E-mail 3LFEM@qlink.queensu.ca)

CACLALS

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES STUDIES

A membership form for 1998 is inserted in this issue of *Chimo*. Please send it in with your membership fee (which covers the calendar year of 1998) as soon as possible. If you are a paid-up member, please pass on the form and the

Conferences, Announcements, Calls for Papers

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Graduate Student Representatives wish to try a more informal graduate student session at the 1998 CACLALS conference at COSH (formerly known as the Learned's), taking the form of an interactive workshop around the issues of interest to graduate students in the fields of Commonwealth and Postcolonial literatures, theory, and pedagogy. We encourage your participation in at least two aspects of this project:

1) Please submit suggestions for workshop topics and strategies pertaining to graduate student experiences in academic institutions as students and teachers, in the fields of Commonwealth and Postcolonial studies, and in our communities.

2) Please submit proposals for performances or informal presentations or member-organized panels that could initiate involved participation and discussion at the graduate student-oriented session. Proposals should be approximately 250 words.

We'd appreciate having your suggestions or proposals by January 31, 1998.

Please send suggestions, proposals, or questions to Heather Smyth, Department of English, 3-5 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E5 (hsmyth@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca) or Laura Moss, Department of English, Watson Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6 (3LFEM@qlink.queensu.ca).

Proposal for a Member-Organized Panel for the
ACCUTE Conference at the 1998 Congress in Ottawa

THE MIGRATING SUBJECT:
DISPLACEMENT, DISPOSSESSION AND THE
RECONSTITUTION OF IDENTITY

The insistent focus by critical theorists over the past decade on the politics of location is largely attributable to poststructuralist notions of the subject as provisionally constituted, and situated within a nexus of shifting power relations. Nevertheless, certain groundings have remained at the forefront of critical consciousness, and are often posited as fundamental to-if not over determining of-the subject's social status and possibilities for expression within a given context. The phenomena of mass migration and diasporic movement-particularly but not exclusively those precipitated by processes of colonization and decolonization-have come to occupy critical attention insofar as they serve as case studies which allow for a close examination of the continuities as well as the discontinuities in the ways that signifiers of identity such as culture, gender, nationality and race are imposed upon and/or mobilised by migrating subjects. Moreover, the examination of migration and diasporic movement provides a logical forum in which sociological, historical, geographical and political enquiry come into dialogue with practices of textual reading.

This panel seeks to expand upon ongoing investigations of the migrant condition both as social phenomenon and as a trope for a destabilised subjectivity by examining texts which take as their focus the question of how the subject comes to configure a self or a community that has heretofore been DISpossessed. Dislocation and displacement may simultaneously entail an expropriation of material belongings, an eradication of social position, an expulsion from a homeland, a psychic trauma, the dismantling of a political or ideological system, a loss of community. How do texts addressing extreme instances of dispossession (those dealing with victims of slavery, ethnic cleansing, genocide or communalist violence, refugees or illegal immigrants, for instance) treat processes of identity formation, both individual and social, in the aftermath of such radical dislocation? How are points of

correspondence as well as points of divergence between different subjectivities negotiated in the process of displacement? What kind of trajectories are mapped out by the characters in question, and how do the courses they chart rectify or redress the problems which have precipitated the traumas they have endured? How do experiments with language and narrative technique inform or influence the processes of reconstitution and reorientation that are being gestured towards within the text under consideration? How, if at all, are clashes between different locations or loyalties circumvented by the writers or characters in question?

Please send two copies of your paper (12-13 pages, double-spaced) or proposal (2-3 pages, double-spaced), along with a brief abstract and bio-bibliographical sketch by 15 January, 1998 to:

Dr. Susan Spearey Department of English Brock University St. Catharines,
Ontario L2S 3A1 [e-mail: sspearey@spartan.ac.brocku.ca](mailto:sspearey@spartan.ac.brocku.ca)

Sharing A Commonwealth
1998 ACLALS Triennial

hosted by

MACLALS
&
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA KUALA LUMPUR

1-6 December 1998

Call for Papers:

Abstracts to: ACLALS Papers Committee do Department of English
Faculty of Arts University of Malaya 50603 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

Association for Commonwealth Literature & Language Studies

CACLALS

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDIES

CACLALS AT COSSH

University of Ottawa
(May 28 to May 30, 1998)

We plan a varied program consisting of members' papers on current research; some joint sessions with ACCUTE and ACQL; special sessions organized by members, a graduate student session or sessions.

Those wishing to participate in the Graduate Student Session should contact Heather Smyth or Laura Moss (see page 22).

Those wishing to read papers in other sessions should submit either the completed paper or an abstract (200 to 500 words) to the Secretary-Treasurer by January 31, 1998. Please indicate on your proposal, now, your a/v equipment needs. Those wishing to organize a special session should also write by the same date, describing the session, listing the proposed participants, and offering abstracts of the papers to be read or of the topic to be discussed.

This information should be sent to: Gary Boire, Secretary-Treasurer, CACLALS, Dept. of English, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON. N2L 3C5, Canada. Tel:(519) 884-1970, Fax: (519)746-2472, [E-mail: gboire@mchl.wlu.ca](mailto:gboire@mchl.wlu.ca).

Call For A Special Session ON POSTCOLONIAL PEDAGOGY

Papers could focus on some of the following parameters: 1. Establishing the authority of a text grounded in personal experience; 2. Theory in the dialogic classroom; 3. Moving discussion beyond thematics to the politics of language and the geographies of post-colonialism; 4. Dealing with liberal guilt in the past-colonial classroom; 5. Any other issues concerning classroom strategies, techniques, dilemmas.

Abstracts, proposals and complete papers should be sent by January 31, 1998 to: Dr. Craig Tapping
Department of English Malaspina University-College Nanaimo, British Columbia CANADA V9R
5S5 Telephone: (250) 753-3245; Fax: (250) 741-2667 [E-Mail: tapping@mala.bc.ca](mailto:tapping@mala.bc.ca)

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE AND LITERARY CRITICISM BY BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS: 1800-1990

Mr. Andrew Martin, Director of the South African National English Literary Museum, has asked the South African High Commission to publicize a major bibliographic project launched by the National English Literary Museum. The High Commissioner has asked me if I can promote this project through *CACLALS*. This I happy to do. Those interested in assisting the National Museum should contact the

Director:

Mr. Andrew Martin,
National English Literary Museum,
Private Bag X1019,
Grahamstown 6140, South Africa

I have an outline of the project which I shall be happy to send to anyone interested. Please contact me.

Rowland Smith,

Vice-President: Academic, Wilfrid Laurier University, 75 University Avenue
West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5 Telephone #:1 (519) 884-1970 ext. 2221 [E-mail: rsmith@mach2.wlu.ca](mailto:rsmith@mach2.wlu.ca)

News of Members

Dr. Uma Parameswaran has informed us that she still has quite a few copies of the volume she edited after the 1981 Commonwealth in Canada Conference. The volume is 400 pages, has about twenty contributors, is beautifully bound (by Writers' Workshop of Calcutta) and is priced at \$10.00 including postage. Please order a volume for your personal or university library by sending her a cheque payable to CACLALS. As she would like to close the chapter, if anyone has any suggestions as to what we should do with the remaining copies, please contact her or us. Uma's e-mail address is parmswrn@uwinnipeg.ca.

Dr. Uma Parameswaran has published a series of books on SACLIT (her acronym for South Asian Canadian Literature) that have appeared in India from three different publishers. For details, you may contact her at parmswrn@uwinnipeg.ca.

John Clement Ball recently published "The Semi-Detached Metropolis: Hanif Kureishi's London" in *ARIEL* 27.4. Another article, "Max's Colonial Fantasy: Rereading Sendak's 'Where the Wild Things Are,'" will be published in *ARIEL* 28.1., the special number on children's literature.

As editor of *Studies in Canadian Literature/Etudes en littérature canadienne*, he is currently soliciting papers for a special issue entitled "Writing Canadian Space/Ecrire l'espace canadien." The issue will be co-edited with Robert Viau and Linda Warley and published in 1998. Deadline for submission of articles is December 1, 1997.

CACLALS

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDIES

Send us your news for inclusion in the next Chimo!

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Constitution

1. *Name*

The name of this Association is the Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, referred to in the Constitution as "the Association."

The Association is a non-profit, unincorporated, professional organization.

2. *Purpose*

- a. To promote research in the field of Commonwealth/Postcolonial literature and language studies.
- b. To provide a forum for the discussion of curricular and pedagogical matters related to the teaching of Commonwealth/Postcolonial literatures.
- c. To maintain connections with other Associations with shared interests in the theory and practice of Commonwealth! Postcolonial literatures, in particular, the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS).

3. *Membership*

Membership is open to any academic, professional, or interested person engaged in the research, teaching, or study of any Commonwealth' Postcolonial literature.

There are four categories of membership: Regular, Associate, Student, and Honorary.

- a. *Regular*: Regular membership in the Association gives a member the right to vote, to speak, to present motions, and to stand for election.
- b. *Associate*: Associate membership in the Association is open to persons resident outside Canada. They have the full privileges of Regular membership, with the right to vote, to present and support motions, but not to stand for election.
- c. *Student*: All full-time or part-time students studying in the field of Commonwealth! Postcolonial literatures are entitled to Student membership in the Association. They have the full privileges of Regular membership, with the right to vote, to present and support motions, and to stand for election as Student Representative on the Executive Committee of the Association. Student members shall pay a reduced membership fee.
- d. *Honorary*: The Executive of the Association, with the voted approval of the membership, may grant Honorary membership to persons who have distinguished themselves by their scholarly achievements in the fields of Commonwealth/Postcolonial literatures, or who have rendered outstanding service to the Association. They have the full privileges of Regular membership, with the right to vote, to present and support motions, but not to stand for election. Honorary members are exempt from paying membership fees.

4. *Officers*

The chief officers of the Association shall be the President and the Secretary-Treasurer.

5. *President*

The President of the Association shall be responsible for the following:

- a. The overall management of the Association.

- b. Convening and chairing the Annual General Meeting and meetings of the Executive Committee.
- c. Acting as the official spokesperson for the Association.
- d. Representing the Association on the international Executive Committee of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS).

6. *Secretary*

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Association shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Maintaining the membership rolls of the Association.
- b. Maintaining the records of the Association and handle its regular correspondence.
- c. Collecting the membership fees of the association.
- d. Preparing an annual financial statement and present it to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- e. Providing each member with the financial statement of the Association for the latest fiscal year.

7. *Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee of the Association will consist of the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Past President, four Regional Representatives, and two Student Representatives.

8. *Executive Committee: Terms of Reference*

The Executive Committee shall observe the following terms of reference:

- a. The chief officers of the Association shall belong to the same region of Canada, preferably to the same or proximate institutions.
- b. Regional Representatives will be distributed in the following manner: British Columbia and the Territories: one; Prairies: one; Ontario: one; Quebec: one; Atlantic Provinces: one. The region in which the Headquarters of the Association is situated shall be held to be represented by the chief officers.

- c. The Student Representative(s) may come from any region of Canada.
- d. The position of Past President, as an ex officio appointment, is a non-voting one.
- e. Each elected member of the Committee has one vote.
- f. The Executive Committee shall be convened at least once each year by the President, who will give notice of the meeting to its members by mail or telephone.
- g. An Executive Committee meeting shall always be convened during the regular Annual Meeting of the Association as a whole.
- h. Executive Committee conferences may be held at any time of the year by telephone, but such teleconference must have a quorum of at least four members of the Executive Committee.
- i. All policy actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be ratified by the Annual General Meeting.

9. *Executive Committee; Duties*

The Executive Committee has the following responsibilities:

- a. To authorize any expenditures necessary to the running of the Association.
- b. To establish ad hoc committees to facilitate and further the activities of the Association.
- c. To recommend membership rates to be set by the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- d. To appoint a liaison person to handle the local arrangements at conferences.
- e. To decide on all questions touching on the interpretation of this Constitution.

10. *Terms of Office*

- a. The President and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed for a term of three years.
- b. The Regional Representatives of the Association shall be appointed for a term of three years.
- c. The Student Representative shall be appointed for a term of two years.
- d. Elections for the full slate of Officers and Regional Representatives shall take place at the Annual General Meeting marking the conclusion of the Executive Committee's third year of office.
- e. The official headquarters of the Association

shall be the institutional address of the current President.

11. Vacancy

The position of an Officer or a Regional Representative shall be considered vacant under the following circumstances:

- a. Death or incapacity.
- b. Resignation, in the form of a letter to the Secretary-Treasurer.
- c. Relocation of a Regional Representative.
- d. Failure to retain paid-up membership in the Association.
- e. Removal from the Executive Committee by a vote of three-quarters of the membership present at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee or the President upon the receipt of a petition signed by at least twenty members, or by five percent of the membership, if this figure is higher.

12. *Notice of Election*

Notice of Elections shall be sent out to all current members three months before the Annual General Meeting of the Association at which the elections are to take place.

13. *Nominations*

Nominations for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be conducted in the following manner:

- a. The call for nominations to all Executive positions ***except those of graduate students*** in the Association, most particularly for the institutional (Headquarter) positions of the chief officers of President and Secretary-Treasurer, should be included in the Notice of Elections.
- b. ***The Fall Issue of Chimo will include a Call for Nominations for a graduate representative. The Spring Issue of Chino will include a slate of nominees: the election for one graduate representative for a 2-year term will be held amongst graduate student members at the annual AGM. Their terms will be staggered, to ensure continuity.***
- c. Written nominations, including the written consent of the nominee, and the supporting signatures of two paid-up members of the Association, shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer two months before the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- d. A full slate of a prospective Executive Committee,

together with the site of a proposed Headquarters, shall be prepared by the outgoing Executive Committee for presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

- e. The proposed slate and the submitted nominations shall be included in a mail ballot to be sent out to all members one month before the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
Nominations for any position may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, with the consent of the nominee and the support of two members of the Association present at the Annual General Meeting.
- g. If there are more nominations than vacancies, there shall be a mail ballot.
- h. Mailed ballots should be submitted in a plain, sealed envelope. This envelope should be placed inside another envelope, sealed, with the member's signature written across the sealing strip. These ballots shall be verified by the Secretary-Treasurer against the current membership rolls. The signed envelopes shall be opened by the Secretary-Treasurer at the appropriate point in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting. A member of the Association approved of by the general membership present shall then record the ballots in the plain envelopes.
Each member shall have one vote.
- j. Voting at all elections of the Association shall be by secret ballot.
- k. No member of the Executive Committee may stand for more than two consecutive terms.
The new Executive Committee shall assume office on ***September 1*** after the Annual General Meeting of the Association at which the elections have taken place ***or after the Triennial Meeting of ACLALS whichever comes last.***

14. *General Meeting*

The Annual General Meeting or any other Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association shall take place at the time and location of the annual meeting of the Association, usually at and during the meetings of the Learned Societies of Canada.

- a. The membership convened at the Annual General Meeting constitutes the Association's highest authority.
- b. The order of business at the Annual General Meeting of the Association shall proceed, where appropriate, in the following manner:
 - (1) Report of the President.
 - (2) Report of the Secretary-Treasurer.
 - (3) Elections of Officers, Regional and Student Representatives.

- (4) Fixing the date and place of the next Annual General Meeting.
- (5) Appointment of Committees.
- (6) Unfinished Business.
- (7) New Business.
- (8) Adjournment.

15. *Convening General Meeting*

In order to convene an Annual General meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting, the President or the Executive Committee shall:

- a. Give written notice to all members at least three months in advance.
- b. A quorum shall consist of those members present at the Annual General Meeting or the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- c. Each member shall have one vote.
- d. All decisions shall be based on a majority vote.
- e. Notice to convene or to postpone a General Meeting shall be mailed to the most recent address of members in the records of the Association.

16. *Fiscal Year*

The fiscal year of the Association shall run from January 1 to December 31.

17. *Signatures*

Except where otherwise provided for, contracts, documents, cheques, or other notes made out in the name of the Association shall bear the signatures of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer.

18. *Constitutional Changes*

- a. Any member may propose an amendment to the Constitution. Such amendments shall require the signatures of ten current members of the Association.
- b. Notice of amendment motions should be sent, with the correct number of supporting signatures, to the Secretary-Treasurer twelve weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting at which it is proposed to have these amendment proposals considered.
- c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall circulate these motions to the membership six weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

- d. Ratification of amendment motions shall require a two-thirds vote in favour by members in good standing at the Annual General Meeting.

19. *Change of Name, Status, Terms of Reference*

- a. The Association may change its name, status, or terms of reference only after a referendum indicating that three-quarters of paid-up members are in favour of such a change.
- b. A motion to this effect must be submitted by twenty-five members.
- c. Such a motion should reach the Secretary-Treasurer at least three months before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which it is proposed to be considered.
- d. Approval of such a motion shall require the assent of two-thirds of the members present at that Annual General Meeting.
- e. A referendum shall then be organized by the Executive Committee between October 1 and December 31 of that year.

20. *Dissolution*

- a. The Association may be dissolved only after a referendum organized according to the same methods, procedures, and time-frame covered in the preceding section dealing with change of Name, Status, or Terms of Reference.
- b. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, its remaining financial assets shall be given over to a registered Canadian charity.

This Constitution, with amendments, adapts the Constitution of the Canadian Association for Commonwealth and Literature Studies (CA CLALS) at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, held at the University of Prince Edward Island on 25 May 1992.

The Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

The Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (CACLALS) is the only association in Canada that concentrates on the burgeoning field of Commonwealth literature (or, in its recent manifestations, International English literature, Anglophone literature, New Literature in English, World Literature Written in English, and Postcolonial literature).

CACLALS brings together critics, scholars, teachers, students, and writers who share a common interest in the Commonwealth and Postcolonial literatures and the versions of the English language they employ. And it provides members with an international context for studying Canadian literature, introducing a deeper understanding of other cultures and of Canada's multicultural tradition. The association organizes each year a three-day conference at the Learned Societies. Members, including graduate students, share their research in sessions that feature papers, panel discussions, readings, and workshops. It regularly sponsors joint sessions with other societies such as ACCUTE and ACQL in areas of common interest. At the annual conference, members and guests have opportunities to meet each other informally. The wine-and-cheese reception and the informal dinner (that often features Commonwealth fare) are both lively occasions.

CACLALS organizes triennially a major international conference at the current headquarters of the association. These conferences attract writers and academics from all over the world. They have been held in Montreal, Winnipeg,

Wolfville, Guelph, and Waterloo.

CACLALS, which celebrated its twentieth year in 1993, is a member of the Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada (HSSFC) and an affiliate of the international Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS). Members of CACLALS automatically acquire membership in the international body, ACLALS.

CACLALS publishes a newsjournal, *Chimo* (the Inuit world for 'greetings'), twice a year. It is distributed free of charge to members. In addition to brief articles and reviews, calls for papers, news of members, and executive committee reports, *Chimo* provides information on CACLALS and other affiliated associations: EACLALS (Europe), IACLALS (India), MACLALS (Malaysia), SAACLALS (Southern Africa), SACLALS (Singapore), SPACLALS (South Pacific), WAACLALS (West Africa), and WIACLALS (West Indies). *Chimo* also carries reports on undergraduate and graduate course offerings in Canadian universities, on visiting Commonwealth writers and academics, and on national and international conferences, such as the recent EACLALS Triennial Conference in Graz, Austria.

Please consider renewing or taking out membership in CACLALS. A membership form is inserted in this issue of *Chimo*.

CACLALS

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDIES

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